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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/899,265	07/06/2001	Nevein T. Sultan	9-13528-170US	3921

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EXAMINER

REFAI, RAMSEY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2152

DATE MAILED: 06/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/899,265	Applicant(s) SULTAN ET AL.	
	Examiner Ramsey Refai	Art Unit 2152	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 May 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-15, 17-25 and 27-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-15, 17-25, and 27-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Responsive to Request for Continued Examination received May 10, 2006. No claims have been added, canceled, or amended. Claims 1-8, 10-15, 17-25, and 27-31 remain pending further examination.

Continued Examination

1. Applicant has filed a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) but has not provided any new amendments to the claims. Therefore a First Action Final Action under MPEP ¶706.07(b) is proper.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In the remarks, the Applicant argues in substance that “*Tappan does not teach or suggest that different ‘decision processes’ are implemented in different ABRs*”. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., *different decision processes are implemented in different ABRs*) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Although the Applicant is arguing a feature which is not recited in the claims, Tappan does teach that different decisions are implemented at different ABRs (figs 8-9, column 8, line 40-column 9, line 48).

Also in the remarks, the Applicant is arguing in that “*Tappan does not teach or suggest that LSA forwarding is controlled using a forwarding policy having a match criteria corresponding to an asserted route tag*” and “*that Tappan does not teach or suggest that the*

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LSA forwarding policy is implemented on a per-router basis, such that each ABR can have a respective different LSA forwarding policy" . Applicant's arguments fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.111(b) because they amount to a general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references. In response, the Examiner directs Applicant to the below cited portions of Tappan for teachings of these limitations.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-6, 10, 12-15, 17-22, 25, and 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tappan (U.S. Patent No. 6,473,421).

5. As per claim 1, Tappan teaches a method comprising steps of:

asserting a route tag in respect of a link state advertisement (LSA) message (column 7, lines 14 – 67 and column 5, lines 5-15); and

controlling propagation of the LSA (column 7, lines 14 – 67 and column 5, lines 5-15) using a forwarding policy having a match criteria corresponding to the asserted route tag wherein the forwarding policy is implemented on a per-router basis, such that an area border router (ABR) of the data network has a respective forwarding policy which differs from that of at least one other area border router (ABR) of the data network (Figure 9, column 1, lines 40-47, column 5, lines 37-40, column 8, lines 39-55).

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6. As per claim 2, Tappan teaches the data network is an Open Shortest Path first (OSPF) network (abstract).

7. As per claim 3, Tappan teaches a route tag comprises one of: an internal route tag associated with an address located within an autonomous system of the data network; and an external route tag associated with an address located outside the autonomous system (Figure 3).

8. As per claim 4, Tappan teaches the step of asserting a route tag comprises steps of: setting a route tag value respecting the LSA; and inserting the route tag value into a predetermined field of the LSA (column 7, lines 14 – 67 and column 5, lines 5-15).

9. As per claim 5, Tappan teaches wherein the route tag value is set by a policy having a match criteria corresponding to a predetermined attribute of the LSA (column 1, line 40 – column 2, lines 50 and column 6, lines 5-50).

10. As per claim 6, Tappan teaches wherein the predetermined attribute comprises any one or more of: a source address; a source area; a destination address; and a destination area (column 2, lines 3 – 50 and Figure 3).

11. As per claim 10, Tappan teaches the forwarding policy corresponds to one of: a pass decision, in which the LSA is forwarded to a downstream link; and a discard decision, in which the LSA is discarded without forwarding (column 1, lines 41-47).

12. As per claim 14, Tappan teaches an autonomous system border router, and an area border router (abstract).

13. As per claims 12 –13, 15, 17– 22, 25, 28, and 29, these claims contain similar limitations as claims 1-6, and 9-10 above, therefore are rejected under the same rationale.

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Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

14. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

15. Claims 7-8, 23-24, and 30-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tappan (U.S. Patent No. 6,473,421) as per claim 1 above, in view of AAPA (Applicant Admitted Prior Art).

16. As per claim 7, Tappan teaches the step of inserting the route tag comprises a step of inserting the route tag value into an external route tag field of the LSA (column 5, lines 5 – 15).

17. Tappan fails to teach the use of Type-5 LSA.

18. However, AAPA teaches the use of Type-5 LSA (paragraph [0007]). It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Tappan and AAPA because AAPA use of Type-5 LSA in Tappan' s system would allow for advertisements to describe routes to destinations external to the Autonomous System.

19. As per claim 8, Tappan teaches the step of inserting the route tag comprises a step of inserting the route tag value into an internal route tag field (column 1, lines, 40-56 and column 2, lines 10-50).

20. Tappan fails to teach the use of Type-3 LSA.

21. However, AAPA teaches the use of Type-3 LSA (paragraph [0008]). It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Tappan and AAPA because AAPA use of Type-3 LSA in Tappan' s system would allow advertisements to describe routes to networks.

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22. As per claims 23-24 and 30-31, these claims contain similar limitations as claims 7-8 above, therefore are rejected under the same rationale.

23. Claims 11, 18, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tappan (U.S. Patent No. 6,473,421) as per claim 1 above, in view of AAPA (Applicant Admitted Prior Art) and in further view of Soloway et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,265,092).

24. As per claim 11, Tappan teaches the use LSA (abstract) and a forwarding table (policy) (column 2, lines 10-50).

25. Tappan fails to teach forwarding table-using information contained in the LSA as either one of: an inclusion route; and an exclusion route.

26. However AAPA teaches a forwarding table that contains inclusion routes (paragraph [0010]). AAPA fails to teach the use of exclusion routes in forwarding tables.

27. However, Soloway et al teaches using exclusion routes in forwarding tables (column 6, lines 35-60; when the switch detects, via LSP (link state packet), that the route/link is changed/down/affected, it stores the changed/down/affected route/link information in the forwarded table). It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Tappan, AAPA, and Soloway et al because AAPA's use of inclusion routes in forwarding tables and Soloway et al's use of exclusion routes in forwarding tables in Tappan's system would provide for a way to control traffic flow within networks by using a forwarding policy that contains inclusion and exclusion routes which allow an ASBR to discard or pass selected packets according to these routes.

28. As per claims 18 and 27, these claims contain similar limitations as claim 11 above, therefore are rejected under the same rationale.

Conclusion

All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the application prior to the entry of the submission under 37 CFR 1.114 and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the application prior to entry under 37 CFR 1.114. Accordingly, THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL even though it is a first action after the filing of a request for continued examination and the submission under 37 CFR 1.114. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

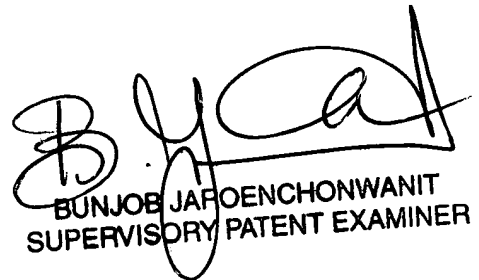
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramsey Refai whose telephone number is (571) 272-3975. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on (571) 272-3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Ramsey Refai
Examiner
Art Unit 2152
June 16, 2006



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER